

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims for this application:

Listing of Claims:

~~Claim~~ 1. (Currently amended) A separation analyzer comprising:

a first pump for transferring liquid, while changing mixing ratios of plural kinds of solutions;

a second pump for transferring a transfer solution;[[,]]

a sample introduction section;

a separation column for separating a sample; and

a detector for detecting the sample eluted from the separation column,

wherein there is disposed a flow switching means having [[a]] first and second sampling ~~loop loops~~ for temporarily storing the solutions and comprising a flow passage from the first pump, a flow passage from the second pump and a flow passage from the sample introduction section, the flow passages being connected with each other, and

wherein the flow switching means alternatively ~~makes~~ assumes a first state where the second pump pushes out the solution in the second sample loop towards the sample introduction section, while transferring the solution from the first pump to the first sampling loop, and ~~makes~~ assumes a second state where the second pump pushes out the solution in the first sampling loop, towards the sample introduction section while transferring the solution from the first pump sampling loop to the second sampling loop.

~~Claim~~ 2. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim 1, wherein the flow switching means has a discharge passage for discharging the solution outside of the analyzer, the passage having a flow resistance equivalent to that of the separation column, and wherein the first sampling loop discharge passage is connected with

the ~~first sampling loop at discharge passage in the first state,~~ and the second sampling loop is ~~communicated~~ connected with the discharge passage in the second state.

~~Claim~~ 3. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first pump transfers the solution at a rate of a ~~micro-litter~~ micro-liter level ($\mu\text{L}/\text{min.}$) and the second pump transfers the solution at a rate of a ~~nano-litter~~ nano-liter level ($\text{nL}/\text{min.}$).

~~Claim~~ 4. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein a volume of each of the first and second sampling loops is about 1 ~~micro-litter~~ micro-liter ($\mu\text{L}/\text{min.}$).

~~Claim~~ 5. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim 2, wherein the flow switching means comprises a first member that comprises a first connection port (~~1~~) to which the passage from the first pump is connected, a second connection port (~~2~~) to which the passage from the second pump is connected, a third connection port (~~3~~) to which the flow passage to the sample introduction section is connected, and a fourth connection port (~~4~~) to which the discharge passage is connected, and a second member having a flow switching passage for switching between the first and second states, and wherein the first and second sampling loops are formed in the first and second members.

~~Claim~~ 6. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim ~~4~~ 1, ~~wherein comprising~~ a third pump for transferring the solution at a rate of a ~~micro-litter~~ micro-liter level ($\mu\text{L}/\text{min.}$), a mixer for mixing the eluted solution from the separation column and the solution transferred from the third pump, and a pipetting section for pipetting the solution after the solutions are mixed by the mixer.

~~Claim~~ 7. (Currently amended) The separation analyzer according to claim ~~6~~ [[1]], which further comprises a constant temperature oven for keeping the temperature of the analyzer constant.